



Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 2086 (Working land conservation)

To: Senate Committee On Environment and Natural Resources

From: Central Oregon LandWatch

Date: March 7, 2019

Mr. Chair, members of the Committee:

Please accept this letter as a statement of strong support of HB 2086.

Central Oregon LandWatch has a mission of achieving a responsible, balanced approach to planning for and conserving Oregon's land and water resources east of the Cascades, while recognizing the needs of future generations. We work to protect and conserve the region's ecosystems and wildlife habitats, to foster thriving, sustainable communities, and to spread the costs and benefits of growth equitably across the community as a whole.

LandWatch has been and remains in strong support of the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program since it was brought to our attention a couple years ago by a local farmer and LandWatch supporter. This program is a win-win, supporting working agricultural lands while providing for conservation easements.

Further, it serves as an example of policy that can unite oftentimes disparate groups and shows that managing Oregon's land resources is not a zero-sum proposition, but an endeavor that works best when stakeholders come together in mutual support of common goals.

Please vote YES on HB 2086